

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Patrick A. Lujin on 9-25-2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Replace the current claim set with:

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1-30. (Canceled).

31. (Currently Amended) A memory medium on which are stored machine instructions for carrying out a method for enabling a user to organize a project, comprising:

(a) displaying an integral user environment to a user to enable access of information pertinent to the project from within the integral user environment;

(b) receiving a list of to do items that are displayed within the integral user environment, wherein the to do items are reminders created by the user to take certain actions;

(c) [[enabling the user to associate an]] in response to user input, associating an entity with a single to do item selected from the list of to do items; wherein associating [[enabling the user to associate the entity]] comprises:

(i) simultaneously displaying the list of to do items and a user interface pane separate from the list of to do items in a non-overlapping manner, wherein a plurality of categories of entities from which the user can select [[,]] within the integral user environment are displayed within the user interface pane, and wherein the plurality of categories of entities includes at least [[one member of a group comprising]] a Web link category [[, a task, a template]] and a document category;

(ii) [[in response to the user selecting one of the categories, displaying alternative choices of entities from which the user can select for association with the single to do item selected from the list; and]] when the user selects the Web link category, displaying a uniform resource locator entry user interface that enables the user to indicate an address for a Web page for association with the single to do item selected from the list;

(iii) [[in response to one of the plurality of alternative choices being selected, providing an indication that said one of the plurality of alternative choices is associated with the single to do item selected from the list; and]] when the user indicates the address for the Web page, providing a first indication that the address for the Web page is associated with the single to do item selected from the list;

(iv) when the user selects the document category, displaying alternative choices of documents from which the user can select for association with the single to do item selected from the list; and

(v) when the user selects a document from the alternative choices of documents for association, providing a second indication that the document is associated with the single to do item;

(d) enabling a user to access said entity that is associated with the selected to do item, from the simultaneously displayed user interface pane where the associated entity to a selected to do item is displayed; and

(e) for the single to do item associated with the entity, [[when an entity is associated with a single to do item selected from the list of to do items,]] enabling the user to replace the entity associated with the single to do item with a new associated entity, wherein enabling the user to replace the entity comprises:

(i) displaying, within the integral user environment, the [[a]] plurality of categories of entities from which the user can select[[, within the integral user environment, wherein the plurality of categories of entities includes at least one member of a group comprising a Web link, a task, a template and a document]];]

(ii) when the user selects the Web link category, displaying [[a]] the uniform resource locator entry user interface that enables the user to indicate [[an]] another address for [[a]] another Web page for association with the single to do item selected from the list;

(iii) when the user indicates the another address for the another Web page, providing a third indication, replacing the first indication, that the another address for the another Web page is associated [[selects one of the categories, displaying alternative choices of entities from which the user can select for association]] with the single to do item selected from the list; and

(iv) when the user selects the document category, displaying alternative choices of documents from which the user can select for association [[in response to one of the plurality of alternative choices being selected, providing an indication that said one of the plurality of alternative choices is associated]] with the single to do item selected from the list; and

(v) when the user selects another document from the alternative choices of documents for association, providing a fourth indication, replacing the second indication, that the another document is associated with the single to do item

[[e) enabling a user to access said entity that is thus associated with the selected to do item, from within the integral user environment]].

32. (Previously Presented) The medium of Claim 31, further comprising automatically executing a search for relevant alternative choices of entities to display to the user, as a function of the to do item in the list that is currently selected.

33. (Previously Presented) The medium of Claim 32, further comprising providing alternative choices derived from other programs that are accessible to the user.

34. (Previously Presented) The medium of Claim 32, further comprising the step of including a blank entity among the plurality of choices that are displayed to the user.

35. (Previously Presented) The medium of Claim 31, further comprising enabling the user to enter a note in association with a currently selected to do item in the list, so that the note is displayed within the integral user environment when the user subsequently again selects said to do item in the list with which the note is associated.

36. (Previously Presented) The medium of Claim 31, further comprising enabling the user to indicate a date for association with a currently selected to do item in the list.

37. (Previously Presented) The medium of Claim 36, further comprising automatically scheduling the date indicated by the user within a calendar program so that a user is subsequently provided a reminder by the calendar program in regard to the date thus indicated.

38. (Previously Presented) The medium of Claim 31, further comprising the step of providing a plurality of defined projects, each defined project including a plurality of proposed to do items that are likely relevant to a subject matter of the defined project.

39. (New) A method for enabling a user to organize a project, comprising:

(a) displaying an integral user environment to a user to enable access of information pertinent to the project from within the integral user environment;

(b) receiving a list of to do items that are displayed within the integral user environment, wherein the to do items are reminders created by the user to take certain actions;

(c) in response to user input, associating an entity with a single to do item selected from the list of to do items; wherein associating comprises:

(i) simultaneously displaying the list of to do items and a user interface pane separate from the list of to do items in a non-overlapping manner, wherein a plurality of categories of entities from which the user can select within the integral user environment are displayed within the user interface pane, and wherein the plurality of categories of entities includes at least a Web link category and a document category;

(ii) when the user selects the Web link category, displaying a uniform resource locator entry user interface that enables the user to indicate an address for a Web page for association with the single to do item selected from the list;

(iii) when the user indicates the address for the Web page, providing a first indication that the address for the Web page is associated with the single to do item selected from the list;

(iv) when the user selects the document category, displaying alternative choices of documents from which the user can select for association with the single to do item selected from the list; and

(v) when the user selects a document from the alternative choices of documents for association, providing a second indication that the document is associated with the single to do item;

(d) enabling a user to access said entity that is associated with the selected to do item, from the simultaneously displayed user interface pane where the associated entity to a selected to do item is displayed; and

(e) for the single to do item associated with the entity, enabling the user to replace the entity associated with the single to do item with a new associated entity, wherein enabling the user to replace the entity comprises:

(i) displaying, within the integral user environment, the plurality of categories of entities from which the user can select;

(ii) when the user selects the Web link category, displaying the uniform resource locator entry user interface that enables the user to indicate another address for another Web page for association with the single to do item selected from the list;

(iii) when the user indicates the another address for the another Web page, providing a third indication, replacing the first indication, that the another

address for the another Web page is associated with the single to do item selected from the list; and

(iv) when the user selects the document category, displaying alternative choices of documents from which the user can select for association with the single to do item selected from the list; and

(v) when the user selects another document from the alternative choices of documents for association, providing a fourth indication, replacing the second indication, that the another document is associated with the single to do item.

40. (New) The method of Claim 39, further comprising automatically executing a search for relevant alternative choices of entities to display to the user, as a function of the to do item in the list that is currently selected.

41. (New) The method of Claim 40, further comprising providing alternative choices derived from other programs that are accessible to the user.

42. (New) The method of Claim 40, further comprising the step of including a blank entity among the plurality of choices that are displayed to the user.

43. (New) The method of Claim 39, further comprising enabling the user to enter a note in association with a currently selected to do item in the list, so that the note is displayed within the integral user environment when the user subsequently again selects said to do item in the list with which the note is associated.

44. (New) The method of Claim 39, further comprising enabling the user to indicate a date for association with a currently selected to do item in the list.

45. (New) The method of Claim 44, further comprising automatically scheduling the date indicated by the user within a calendar program so that a user is subsequently provided a reminder by the calendar program in regard to the date thus indicated.

46. (New) The method of Claim 39, further comprising the step of providing a plurality of defined projects, each defined project including a plurality of proposed to do items that are likely relevant to a subject matter of the defined project.

47. (New) A system for enabling organizing a project, comprising:

(a) a memory in which a plurality of machine instructions are stored;

(b) a display on which text and graphics are displayed;

(c) a user input device that enables input and selection of choices provided on the display; and

(d) a processor, coupled to the memory, user input device, and the display, said processor executing the plurality of machine instructions to carry out a plurality of functions, including:

(i) displaying an integral user environment to a user to enable access of information pertinent to the project from within the integral user environment;

(ii) receiving a list of to do items that are displayed within the integral user environment, wherein the to do items are reminders created by the user to take certain actions;

(iii) in response to user input, associating an entity with a single to do item selected from the list of to do items; wherein associating comprises:

(A) simultaneously displaying the list of to do items and a user interface pane separate from the list of to do items in a non-overlapping manner, wherein a plurality of categories of entities from which the user can select within the integral user environment are displayed within the user interface pane, and wherein the plurality of categories of entities includes at least a Web link category and a document category;

(B) when the user selects the Web link category, displaying a uniform resource locator entry user interface that enables the user to indicate an address for a Web page for association with the single to do item selected from the list;

(C) when the user indicates the address for the Web page, providing a first indication that the address for the Web page is associated with the single to do item selected from the list;

(D) when the user selects the document category, displaying alternative choices of documents from which the user can select for association with the single to do item selected from the list; and

(E) when the user selects a document from the alternative choices of documents for association, providing a second indication that the document is associated with the single to do item;

(iv) enabling a user to access said entity that is associated with the selected to do item, from the simultaneously displayed user interface pane where the associated entity to a selected to do item is displayed; and

(v) for the single to do item associated with the entity, enabling the user to replace the entity associated with the single to do item with a new associated entity, wherein enabling the user to replace the entity comprises:

(A) displaying, within the integral user environment, the plurality of categories of entities from which the user can select;

(B) when the user selects the Web link category, displaying the uniform resource locator entry user interface that enables the user to indicate another address for another Web page for association with the single to do item selected from the list;

(C) when the user indicates the another address for the another Web page, providing a third indication, replacing the first indication, that the another address for the another Web page is associated with the single to do item selected from the list; and

(D) when the user selects the document category, displaying alternative choices of documents from which the user can select for association with the single to do item selected from the list; and

(E) when the user selects another document from the alternative choices of documents for association, providing a fourth indication, replacing

the second indication, that the another document is associated with the single to do item.

48. (New) The system of Claim 47, wherein the machine instructions further cause the processor to automatically execute a search for relevant alternative choices of entities to display to the user, as a function of the to do item in the list that is currently selected.

49. (New) The system of Claim 48, wherein the machine instructions further cause the processor to provide alternative choices derived from other programs that are accessible to the user.

50. (New) The system of Claim 48, wherein the machine instructions further cause the processor to include a blank entity among the plurality of choices that are displayed to the user.

51. (New) The system of Claim 47, wherein the machine instructions further cause the processor to enable the user to enter a note in association with a currently selected to do item in the list, so that the note is displayed within the integral user environment when the user subsequently again selects said to do item in the list with which the note is associated.

52. (New) The system of Claim 47, wherein the machine instructions further cause the processor to enable the user to indicate a date for association with a currently selected to do item in the list.

53. (New) The system of Claim 52, wherein the machine instructions further cause the processor to automatically schedule the date indicated by the user within a calendar program so that a user is subsequently provided a reminder by the calendar program in regard to the date thus indicated.

54. (New) The system of Claim 47, wherein the machine instructions further cause the processor to provide a plurality of defined projects, each defined project including a plurality of proposed to do items that are likely relevant to a subject matter of the defined project.

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REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
2. The examiner considered the Applicant's Amendment filed on 7-9-2008 and the Examiner Amendment of 9-25-2008 and after updated search, no other prior art of record has taught that which was presented in the amended claims
3. Therefore, claims 31-54 are allowable.
4. Independent claims 31, 39, and 47, when considered as a whole, are allowable over the prior art of record (Scherr et al. and Barnet et al.). Scherr teaches, in paragraphs 22-25 and in figure 1, a system for allowing a user to organize a project into a concern cascade, the cascade having a plurality of levels of concerns ranging from primary Areas of Concern (AoC) to sub-Areas of Concern displayed to the user, in order to show a user what still needs to be done (to-do) (see paragraph 19); in paragraphs 35

and 42, allowing a user to associate documents (messages, word processing documents, spreadsheets, web pages, data bases, presentations, and the like), with select AoC, sub-AoC, concern, outcome, commitment and/or occasion, and further enabling a user to link to associated documents from within the concern cascade; and associating elements from varying categories (messages, word processing documents, spreadsheets, web pages, etc.) with specific concerns in a list of concerns, and providing a visual links to the documents via the UI (see paragraphs 35 and 42). Scherr is further supplemented by Barnett who further teaches storing instructions (see paragraphs 66 and 67) for implementing a system for associating entities (e.g. web content) with a users calendar/to-do list (see paragraphs 6, 20, and 92), similar to that of Scherr, and further teaches displaying a plurality of categories available for user selection (see paragraph 96), where upon user selection the user is provided with a list of entities specific to the selected category (see paragraph 97), that are available for user selection to be associated (added to) the to-do list / calendar (see paragraph 98).

However, specifically the prior art of record fails to clearly teach or support the limitations of *the user interface described by the amended claims including a pane for displaying the to-do list simultaneously displayed, in a non-overlapping fashion, with a pane allowing for categorical selection of entities (either Web link or Document) to associate with to-do items, where the user is provided with a URL entry user interface upon selection of the Web link category and provided with a list of documents upon selection of the Document category, where when a single specified to-do item already has a particular categorical entity association the user is provided with an option to*

replace the association with an entity from the same category via the adjacent pane, where access to said associated entities (along with display of associated entities) is provided dynamically based upon the selected to-do item via the simultaneously displayed pane allowing for categorical selection.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DENNIS G. BONSHOCK whose telephone number is (571)272-4047. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 6:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dennis Chow can be reached on (571) 272-7767. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dennis G. Bonshock/
Examiner, Art Unit 2173
9-29-08
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